

- d. exposing said one object to an increased temperature of at most about 20°C below the melting point of the thermoplastic elastomer.

bulb D17
B1
Sub C2
2. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic elastomer is a copolyether ester.

3. (Amended) A sealing or connecting component for the fashioning of a permanent connection, obtained by a process comprising:

- a. moulding the component from a thermoplastic elastomeric material;
b. stretching the component;
c. relaxing the component at ambient temperature.

Sub D17
4. (Amended) A sealing or connecting component according to claim 3, wherein the thermoplastic elastomer is a copolyether ester.

Sub C3
5. (Amended) A process for the fashioning of a permanent connection between at least 2 components of an object, with at least one sealing or connecting component according to claim 3, comprising:

- a. placing said sealing or connecting component at the location of the desired connection in the object;
b. exposing said sealing or connecting to an increased temperature of at most about 20°C below the melting point of the thermoplastic elastomer.

6. (Amended) A sealing or connecting component according to claim 3, selected from body plugs, gasket rings, sealing rings, or shrink-on sleeveings.

7. (Amended) An object containing at least one fashioned permanent connection obtained by the process according to claim 1.

Please add following new claims 8-12:

8. (New) A process for the fashioning of a permanent connection between at least 2 components of an object, with at least one sealing or connecting component according to claim 4, comprising:

- a. placing said sealing or connecting component at the location of the desired connection in the object;
- b. exposing said sealing or connecting to an increased temperature of at most about 20°C below the melting point of the thermoplastic elastomer.

9. (New) A sealing or connecting component according to claim 5, selected from body plugs, gasket rings, sealing rings, or shrink-on sleeveings.

10. (New) An object containing at least one fashioned permanent connection obtained by the process according to claim 3.

11. (New) An object containing at least one fashioned permanent connection obtained by the process according to claim 5.

12. (New) An object containing at least one fashioned permanent connection obtained by the process according to claim 8.